

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, and 5 are currently pending. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 1, 4, and 5 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Abstract was objected to as not being a single paragraph; Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention; Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP Publication No. 2002-058089 to Okuda Ryuichi (hereinafter “the ‘089 patent”) in view of JP Publication No. 2000-197174 to Morinaga Kenichi (hereinafter “the ‘174 patent”); and Claims 3-4 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response to the objection to the Abstract, the Abstract has been rewritten to be a single paragraph and to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b).

In response to the rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claim 5 has been amended to recite “said code” as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is believed to have been overcome.

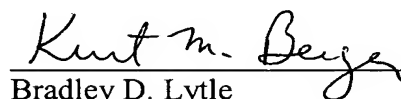
Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations recited in allowed Claim 3 and intervening Claim 2. Accordingly, based on the indicated allowability of Claim 3, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is in condition for formal allowance.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the ‘089 and ‘174 patents and is in condition for formal allowance.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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